

The Wobbly Oscillator



Hams Who Serve

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

February 2022

Volume 52

Number 2



Ron Hollas, K8RJH
Ham Of The Year

From The Prez

Ham Of The Year

Ron, K8RJH



CARS president, Toby, WT8O, happily presents Ron, K8RJH, the 2021 coveted HOTY plaque at Ron's shack.

Every year we say it was a tough decision to select the CARS Ham Of The Year. It usually is. This year the choice was easy. Ron, K8RJH, has contributed more to the club than anyone in recent history.

His masterful engineering setting up the Zoom meetings for our monthly meetings and coordinating them with the repeater gave us the broadest spectrum possible for meeting attendance. We were able to hold a live in person meeting at the restaurant or the park, give access via Zoom to anyone who had internet service, and additionally include any locals who wished to use RF, or distant stations who employed EchoLink or Allstar to use the repeater. Ron's set up allowed any member, or any ham, the ability to attend our meetings from anywhere on the planet. That's beyond cool.

Ron's help at the main repeater site was a major contribution as part of the Technical Committee. He was never shy about rolling his sleeves up digging into the project at hand with the joyful enthusiasm very few people show. Besides that, Ron's professional connections generated a much lower rate for the internet service then we could have gotten on our own.

Ron enthusiastically jumped into the Net Control Station rotation when we needed to fill an open spot. Once he learned how to pronounce "Cuyahoga," he blossomed into one hell of a great net controller. He is always willing to fill in for a vacancy when needed fervor.

Ron has given us some excellent meeting presentations this past year on antenna construction, digital operation, and public service. I say excellent, because you can always judge the interest of meeting programs by the comments the day after on the weekly net by the members who attended. Ron always gets high marks from his peers.

I could go on and on, but the bottom line is Ron is one of the most gung-ho members CARS has ever had. He does everything with a sense of eagerness that rubs off on those around him, making the club great not only from his participation and contributions, but the way he inspires his fellow members.

New Net Controller

Last month we asked for a new net controller. Yet no one has beaten a path to my doorstep. At this point we will have to start soliciting stations who check in regularly to the Wednesday evening club nets. It's not that hard, I became a NCS a month after I received my Technician. If I can do it, just about anyone can. We will give anyone who tries plenty of support. We have an excellent track record, in that every station that has become a NCS has done well and stuck with it for a good long while. If you try a net or two and feel uncomfortable, there's no harm in backing out. Please contact me if you are interested and we'll get you started.

73, Toby, WT8O

January 2022 Meeting Minutes

LOCATION---Due to increased COVID cases, the meeting was held via Zoom.

CALLED TO ORDER---The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ron Hollas, K8RJH, at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE---Those present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTIONS---Those present introduced themselves.

NOVEMBER MINUTES---The November minutes were approved as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*. The motion was brought to the club by Andy, KD8SCV and seconded by Bob, W8GC.

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBER**

**MATT NEELY
KB8UCH**

TREASURER'S REPORT---Bob Check, W8GC, reported on the club's current financial situation. No issues or concerns were identified. 31 members have not paid their 2022 dues. Four other payments are in the mail. This is good for this time of year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Toby Kolman, WT8O, was not in attendance due to illness.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Ron Hollas, K8RJH,

- There is an interesting ARRL podcast, episode 24
- Members should sign up for the free ARRL Ohio *Postscript* newsletter
- Dayton Hamvention is May 20-22, 2022

SECRETARY'S REPORT---Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, had nothing to report.

NEW MEMBER---A new member, Matt Neely, KB8UCH, was unanimously voted into the club. The motion was brought to the club by Joe, KD8BAL and was seconded by Arp, K8ARP.

PUBLIC SERVICE---Arp, K8ARP, reported that there are no events between now and the next CARS meeting.

Additional public service information is available at N8ESG.org. Ron, K8RJH, reported that the next ARES meeting is Feb 1, 2022, the first Tuesday of the month. A new ARES District 10 DMR net, talk group 31395, runs on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Check neodigital.cc for repeater information.

VE UPDATE---Metro, W8MET, was not in attendance. The next CARS VE Session will be on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 9:15 AM at the Old Rec Center in Independence. Bob, W8GC, mentioned that license classes start February 24, 2022. More information is available on the CARS website, www.2cars.org.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE---Joe, KD8BAL,

- Today's program will be presented by Ron Hollas, K8RJH
- February's program is TBD and will depend on whether the meeting is in person or on Zoom
- Please send ideas for programs to Joe

TECH COMMITTEE---Scott, AC8NW, reported that the repeater was off the air for a few days until the license was renewed properly. The repeater and AllStar are back online. EchoLink is still pending. Toby may have to send in the license as the trustee.

HAMVENTION BUS---Scott, AC8NW, reported that buses for Hamvention may still be available. The Board will need to approve the idea and someone will need to coordinate the logistics. This topic will be discussed during the next board meeting.



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE---Andy, KD8SCV, reported that sympathy cards were sent to the families and friends of recent silent keys.

REFRESHMENTS---Ron, K8RJH, thanked Rich, NW8X and Shawn KE8MRV for providing donuts and coffee for in person meetings.

NEW BUSINESS---None

NEXT MEETING---The next meeting of The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society will be on February 8, 2022. The meeting is tentatively scheduled at the Busch Funeral Home on Ridge Road in Parma, Ohio. A determination of in person and / or via Zoom will be made prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT---The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. The motion was brought to the club by Bob, KC8MRC and seconded by Arp, K8ARP.

After the meeting, Ron Hollas, K8RJH, provided a presentation on preparing for public service.

Submitted by Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

VE Session

The CARS January VE session brought two new hams into the Amateur Radio Service. James Mihelich, KE8TSW, and Jerry Hall, KE8TSV, passed their Technician exams becoming licensed amateurs. We welcome James and Jerry into the ham radio hobby. Jerome Bott, KE8SVJ, and Matt Neely, KB8UCH, both upgraded to General, and Andrew Morkunas, N7JRR, upgraded to Amateur Extra. James Watson, AC8PY, and Mary Watson, KC8TAA, renewed their licenses. Congratulations to all.

Special thanks to our outstanding VE team, capably led by Metro, W8MET, and consisting of James, AC8PY; Roger, N8TCP, and George, K8KR.

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, March 13th, at **9:15 AM*** at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net

As always, walk-ins are welcome.

CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Analog Repeater

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Allstar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.820 Repeater

Brecksville

444.75 (+) PL Tone 131.8

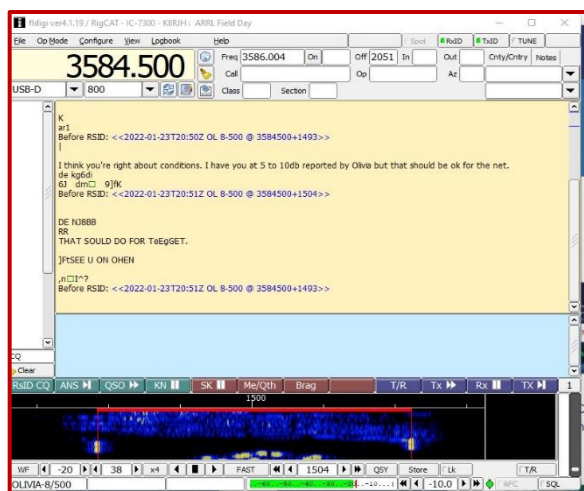
Analog Repeater

Not Linked to Other Repeaters

From The Vice President A "Case" Lesson from using Digital Ron, K8RJH

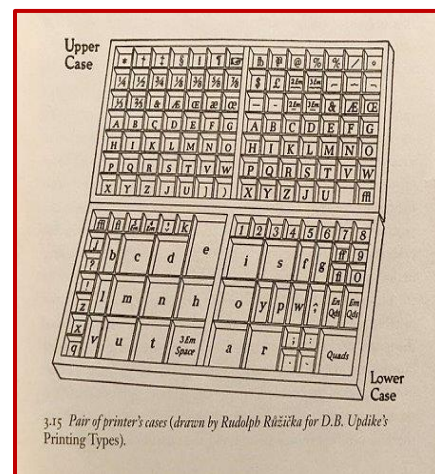
In recent weeks, I have been enjoying using several of the HF digital modes available in FLDigi. It has taught me that there is much more to learn than installing and configuring the program to my HF radio and then making contacts.

The fun started when I became an active participant with the OHDEN (Ohio Digital Emergency Net) held twice a week on 80/160 meters. I was first interested on how well my station coverage is throughout Ohio. The net uses the Olivia 8/500 protocol and it is quite amazing how well one can communicate reliably using low power signal levels throughout the state. Olivia has a feature that will allow the operator to simply type the message and send the content in real time. If you need to make a correction as you transmit, simply backspace to the place in the message, and make the change. It is at this point I made an observation that stations were following different text "cases" in sending messages in English. Some were sending all lower case; some were all upper case, and then the rest were sending messages with proper and mixed capitalization. What message format should I follow and what is correct for an Amateur contact or NET? In researching this question, I have discovered a quick history lesson about our written language.



Example of the FLDigi messaging screenshot that copied the multiple message formats between two operators. This raised the interest on correct case use for contact messaging, especially with the newer digital modes supporting enhanced text cases and characters. (L)

The pair of Printer's Cases used for storage of the Uppercase Type and the Lowercase Type set showing a typical organization of the letter cases. (R)



Background

When it comes to letters, case refers to whether letters are written in larger uppercase form, which is also often known as majuscule or capital letters, or smaller lowercase form, which is also known as miniscule or small letters. For example, the first three letters of the alphabet in uppercase form are A, B, and C. Those same three letters in lowercase form are a, b, and c.

Historians believe that majuscule or uppercase letters came first. The first alphabets were printed entirely in large majuscule letters, evenly spaced between well-defined upper and lower bounds. Over time, however, it was only natural that smaller versions of each letter would develop. This probably happened as letters were

written quickly. To save time and space, letters became smaller and more rounded as scribes hurried to finish their work.

These smaller versions of letters eventually evolved into an entire miniscule set of letters. Compared to majuscule versions, the miniscule versions offered improved and faster readability in addition to being easier and faster to write. *(This will become important to the development of the teletype later mentioned in this article.)*

At first, “Old World” scribes would only use majuscule or miniscule letters, but not a mixture of both. That changed over time, though. Although there were no official capitalization rules in the English language until the early 18th century, scribes had traditionally written certain letters, such as nouns and the first letters of sentences, in a larger, distinct script for hundreds of years. Today, lowercase letters are used most frequently, with uppercase letters reserved for special purposes, such as capitalizing proper nouns or the first letter of a sentence.



Example of Type being arranged to form “Typeset” readied for printing. It took skill to arrange the letters quickly and correctly for a proper print.



An Early Teleprinter manufactured by Siemens and Halske (1855). Note the letter keyboard entry used an etched musical key board with the letters for creating the message. The centrifugal governor to achieve synchronicity with the remote end is the tall structure on this instrument. It was capable of sending up to 40 words per minute or 2,000 words per hour with a trained operator.

The Upper and Lower Case for Letters

The terms “uppercase” and “lowercase” come from the way in which print shops were organized hundreds of years ago. Individual pieces of metal “type” were stored in boxes called cases. The smaller letters, which used most often, were kept in a lower case that was easier to reach. Capital letters, which used less frequently, were placed in an upper case. Because of this old storage convention, we still refer to small letters as lowercase and capital letters as uppercase!

Today's Technical Challenge

Since the early days of Morse code, which does not distinguish between uppercase and lowercase letters, the communication messages and content format remained consistent for over a century. The Military originally standardized using the all-capital format, and that is what most commerce and Amateurs used in messaging between points for many years. Then, the early "teleprinter" (or printing telegraph, invented by Royal Earl House in 1846), "was basically made up of only of one, two or three rows of keys and did not allow for sending lowercase letters". The modern teletype evolved through innovation and eventually offered the capability for efficiently including the lower case letter set for the written English (and other) language. As expanded content, message length, social popularity and speed expanded the market for low cost, reliable communication with messages during the post WW2 years, the more conventional teletype we know of today answered this need being introduced in the 1950's and 60's.

Even The Military Times reported that the need for lowercase letters and symbols within communications can be validated through a research study on reading messages as it reported in a mid-1950's article, noting that:

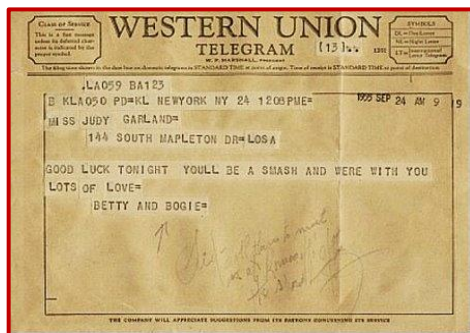
"While it might have been necessary to transmit all uppercase messages in the past, it's arguably a hindrance today. A typography study from the 1950s at the University of Minnesota showed reading speeds slowed by about 14 percent when reading all-caps messages over a 20-minute period."

Shortly after this study, newer communication standards were quickly adopted using both upper case, lower case and even custom symbol sets for government and industry. The older teletype machines found their way to ham shacks, surplus stores and recycler bins. Our amateur community has kept up with the trends, with now many emerging digital communication options being available to the Ham at low cost, such as the popular FLDigi suite of digital protocols that are simply installed on a home computer and is in widespread Amateur use today.

As far as a challenge to use the proper format for messaging in today's new Amateur digital modes, it is suggested to follow the best practices of written English first, and then follow any documented manuals or instructions that are applicable for the net mode or group that you are participating or engaged with messaging activities.

With the case of the OHDEN net mentioned earlier in this article, their well-documented operating manual can be found at <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/ohden/> and can answer many of the frequent questions a new user to the net may have in their set up and operation.

Additionally, a good resource for learning about digital operating best practices for the new modes are available in the current ARRL publication "The Operating Manual for Radio Amateurs".



A typical Western Union Telegram, a popular mode of communication during the 1930's through the 1960's. It offered speed, convenience, and many times at a lower cost than a long distance phone call. Messages were usually limited to just a few words and all in upper case.



This is the popular 3 row keyboard from a WW2 vintage teletype machine. Note that there are dedicated keys for Figures "FIGS" and Letters "LTRS" but no case keys for shifting into lowercase. These devices can be found at many Hamfests in our area.

Board of Directors Meeting

February 4, 2022

MEETING LOCATION---Because of the coronavirus the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society held its February 2022 Board Meeting via Zoom.

CALLED TO ORDER---The meeting was called to order by Board President Arp, K8ARP, at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE---Those present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ATTENDEES---The following members were in attendance:

Bob Check, W8GC; Toby Kolman, WT8O; Terry Pillatt, KB8DTC; Mark Moro; WJ8WM; Ron Hollas, K8RJH; Arp Viiberg, K8ARP; Scott Smith, AC8NW; Bob Robbins, K8RGI; Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS; Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

ELECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT---Mark Moro, WJ8WM, was nominated for board president by Toby, WT8O. The nomination was seconded by Terry, KB8DTC, and unanimously approved.

APPROVE CLUB EXPENDITURES---Bob, W8GC, reported that the Club P.O. Box was renewed for 2022. He moved that the Club eliminate the P.O. Box starting in 2023 because of the expense, \$166 / yr, and that no mail has been received in the past two years. The motion was seconded by Toby, WT8O. Bob's, W8GC's, address is currently listed as the Club address. Toby's, WT8O's, address is used for the Club repeater. The Club will stop publishing the P.O. Box address in 2022. Mail from the P.O. Box will be forwarded to Bob, W8GC, after the box is canceled. Forwarding should last for a year. When Bob, W8GC, leaves the office of Club Treasurer, the next Treasurer will be able to determine how to best handle the Club's mailing address. Bob, K8RGI, moved to cancel the P.O. Box. The motion was seconded by Terry, KB8DTC, and unanimously approved.

REPEATER---Multiple repeater topics were discussed

- Toby, WT8O, will work with the Tech Committee, headed by Scott, AC8NW, to determine how repeater trusteeship will work in the future. The next license renewal for the repeater is in 10 years.
- Toby, WT8O will work with Vince, N8OVW, and Dave, K8DAV, to make sure the repeater is properly coordinated with the Ohio Area Repeater Council (OARC). This will ensure that the repeater's frequency pair is reserved for the Club and does not conflict with other repeaters in the area.
- Scott, AC8NW, and Ron, K8RJH, are investigating expanding the Club's repeater with Yaesu Wires X. This would allow additional access to the repeater via digital bands. This type of access is

popular in Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati but does not have much coverage in Cleveland. Adding Wires X to the repeater will enable radios with MMDBD, DMR, P24, 17 mode, DStar and other internet-based and digital RF modes to use the repeater. Bob, W8GC, moved that the Club approve \$300 for the expense. The motion was seconded by Scott, AC8NW, and unanimously approved. Ron, K8RJ8, will work with the tech committee to put together a plan for this project.

- Vince, N8OVW, is working on adding a west side repeater input, probably in Parma, in addition to the Twin Tower and Shaker inputs. The Club owns the necessary equipment for this. Nothing is required from the board at this time. Adding this input will open up opportunities for public service events that currently have spotty coverage. Before the additional input is setup, the Club will make sure that all the appropriate paperwork and licenses are in place.

OLD BUSINESS---None

NEW BUSINESS---Several new items were discussed

- The Club is considering a bus for Hamvention this year. To determine if a bus will be worthwhile, prior riders will be surveyed. Eddie, KD8FTS, will check with Metro, W8MET, to see if there's a list of previous riders available. Arp, K8ARP, will post the question on the Club's Facebook page. Toby, WT8O, will bring up the topic in an upcoming Club meeting.
- The Field Day 2022 site at Calvin Park in Seven Hills has been reserved. Bob, K8RGI, is working to determine the budget, including food, generators, etc. The official rules for Field Day 2022 will determine if members can participate from home again this year. Additional details for Field Day will be discussed during Field Day planning meetings and shared with the Club at the Club meetings.
- Ron, K8RJH, and Matt, KE8OZU, need to send pictures to Bob, W8GC, for inclusion on the Club website officer's page.
- Toby, WT8O, thanked those who checked in on him while he was sick, specifically Scott, AC8NW, Ron, K8RJH, and Mark, WJ8WM.
- Ron, K8RJH, let everyone know that Zoom is available to the Club for committee meetings.
- The February Club meeting will include a topic by Bob, W2THU, on the Ohio legislature. Due to the wide appeal of this topic, the meeting will be publicized on both the Club's Facebook page, by Arp, K8ARP, and on the Club website, by Bob, W8GC.

ADJOURNMENT---Arp, K8ARP, called to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Submitted by Matt, KE8OZU, CARS Secretary

***NASA Report
Bob, KC8MRC***

The space launch system rocket is scheduled for some time in May, 2022.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 second stage that launched a satellite about seven years ago is due to impact the moon on March 4, 2022.

CARS Licensing Classes

CARS will once again offer Amateur Radio Licensing classes in 2022. There will be classes for Technician, General, and Amateur Extra. Keep in mind, the General class will be given to any CARS member at no charge. The well-seasoned team of instructors will remain in place with David, KD8ACO, teaching the Technician class; Toby, WT8O, teaching the General class; and Joel, K8SHB, teaching the Extra class.

All classes will be held at the Seven Hills Community Room every Thursday at 6:30 PM. Sign-up and orientation will be on Thursday, February 24th continuing through Thursday, April 7th when a VE Exam Session will be held for all classes.

See the CARS website, www2cars.org, for details and a map to the class location.

2022 CARS Dues

Just a reminder, we are accepting your 2022 dues; they are due on or before January 31, 2022. Dues are \$26.00 for members 59 years of age or younger, plus \$16.00 per family member. Dues for age 60 and over are \$18.00 plus \$16.00 per eligible family member.

Please mail dues and other correspondence to:
CARS
7395 Brecksville Rd.
Independence, OH 44131

Payments can also be made via PayPal (PLEASE USE PERSONAL OPTION WHEN PAYING) by sending to:
w8gc@2cars.org

You can also pay at any CARS meeting. If you have already paid your 2022 dues "Thank You!" If you are not sure please send me an email.

73, Bob, W8GC, Treasurer CARS

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H
Elected 5/8/18

Ron Borkey, K8VJG, SK
Elected 5/14/19

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK, SK
Elected 8/10/21

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, provided that credit is given to this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

CARS 2022 Officers & Committees

Audit

K8RJH ** WT8O, WJ8WM

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

K8RJH **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

WJ8WM **, K8ARP, KD8FTU, KD8FTV

Field Day

K8RGI **, WT8O, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, WT8O, K8RJH, N8BBB food

50/50

KD8SCV

Hamvention Bus

KD8FTS **

License classes

KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O ** W8GC

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings

KD8BAL ** KD8FTS, KE8OZU

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

KD8FTS **, K8ARP

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

K8RJH ** pop, NW8X ** Donuts, KE8RMV *** Coffee

Scholarship

W8GC ** K8RGI, KE8OZU, WT8O, K8RJH

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, K8RJH, KB8DTC

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2022 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ron Hollas, K8RJH, 216-379-7440

SECRETARY

Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, 216-337-1540

Alternate Secretary:

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

Alternate Treasurer: Bob Robbins, K8RGI

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman:

Mark Moro WJ8WM 216-661-0342

even year executive board 2 year term

AC8NW, KB8DTC, WJ8WM

odd year executive board 2 year term

K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8FTS

License trustee

K8ZFR

WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,

W8GC



February 5, 2022

